

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Reed Leaverton Farm

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Grange Hall Road

CITY, TOWN

Starr

☒ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1st

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Queen Anne's

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

## ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

## PRESENT USE

☒ AGRICULTURE☐ MUSEUM☐ COMMERCIAL☐ PARK☐ EDUCATIONAL☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ RELIGIOUS☐ GOVERNMENT☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ MILITARY☐ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Franklin R. Leaverton

Telephone #:

STREET &amp; NUMBER

RT#3, Box 80

CITY, TOWN

Centreville

☐ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21617

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Queen Anne's County Courthouse

Liber #: CWC 20/218

Folio #: CWC 92/203

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Courthouse Square

CITY, TOWN

Centreville

STATE

Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

QA-128

**CONDITION**

☐ EXCELLENT  
☒ GOOD  
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED  
☐ RUINS  
☐ UNEXPOSED

**CHECK ONE**

☐ UNALTERED  
☒ ALTERED

**CHECK ONE**

☒ ORIGINAL SITE  
☐ MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Reed Leaverton Farm is located on the south side of Grange Hall Road, just east of the intersection with Poplar School Road and approximately 2 1/2 miles southwest of Starr.

The main house on the Leaverton Farm is of brick construction, 2 stories high, five bays wide and one room deep with a flush brick chimney centered on each end of the pitched gable roof. A story-and-a-half wing on the east gable end of the main house appears to be an early frame addition that has been veneered with brick in recent years.

The front facade faces north toward the road. The principal entrance is located in the center bay of the first floor, flanked by two 9/6 windows on each side. Five 6/6 windows are ranged across the second floor, and three 6/6 pitched roof dormers have been added on the third floor in the 20th century. A pair of cellar window openings have been fitted with modern three-light metal sash. The brickwork is laid in Flemish bond above a plain water table and a three-course bond foundation. A two-course Flemish bond belt

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.1 DESCRIPTION

course is carried across the facade and stops short of the gable corners. The eaves are boxed in and trimmed with a complex crown mold and bed mold; the roof is asphalt shingle. The cornice is carried up the gable eaves and appears to be post-Civil War in date. A one-story entrance porch in the center bay is a 20th century replacement for an earlier porch that evidently extended across the center three bays on the first floor. Other details of interest include the molded window frames and the shutter hooks and hinges for shutters on the first floor windows.

The first story of the west gable wall is now covered by a modern one story sun porch. The brickwork remains exposed and is visible from the porch, however. A door in the north bay on the first story opens onto the sun porch. This opening appears to be cut in. Two four-light windows flanking the chimney in the upper gable are the only other openings. The brickwork is laid in three-course bond above a plain water table and three-course bond foundation. Many of the headers are glazed, creating the suggestion of glazed banding more dramatically evident on the C.C. Harper Farm (QA-11) and Bordlington (QA-95). The gable eaves are boxed in

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.2 DESCRIPTION

and trimmed with a complex crown mold. This is clearly a post-Civil War alteration, presumably replacing flush rakeboards.

The rear facade, facing south, is virtually identical to the front facade. The door is located in the center bay flanked by two 9/6 windows on each side. There are five 6/6 windows on the second floor and no dormers on the third story. The brickwork and cornice are identical, including the two-course belt course and plain water table. Early trim survives on all window openings, but the door has been replaced.

The majority of the east gable wall is covered by the story-and-a-half wing. It is similar to the west gable, with a door in the north bay of the first floor opening into the wing and a pair of four-light windows flanking the chimney in the upper gable. A bulkhead cellar entrance in the south bay has been altered in recent years. The original opening was unusually high but has been lowered to a more conventional and less disruptive location. The brickwork on this gable is laid in three-course bond with some glazed headers, above a plain water table and a three-course bond foundation.

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.3 DESCRIPTION

The interior originally consisted of a center passage plan with single rooms on each side of the stair passage. In recent years, the south end of the passage has been partitioned to form a modern bathroom. The original stair survives, rising against the east wall to a single winder in the southeast corner and a landing in the southwest corner. It is an open-string stair with a handsome chamfered octagonal newel, a plain walnut handrail, square ballusters and a plain carriage. All of the original beaded baseboard, architrave trim and most of the chairrail survive in the stair passage. The architrave trim consists of a beaded fascia with a cove and fillet backband. Original six-panel, fully fielded doors open into the two flanking rooms; the front and rear doors have been replaced. The two-piece chairrail consists of a fascia with an unusually large bead and a nosing with a Federal molding below. A four-panel door under the stair landing opens onto an original cellar stair.

The west room serves today as a relatively formal parlor and dining room. The fireplace is centered on the west gable wall, with an original Federal mantel that consists of a board surround with fluted pilasters,

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.4 DESCRIPTION

a plain frieze and center block and chip-carved side-blocks below a complex shelf. A band of chip carving forms the lower element of the molded shelf. Trim in this room includes the beaded baseboard, two-piece chairrail, and molded architrave trim. The baseboard and the chairrail are identical to the stair passage. The interior door architrave has the same cove backband but the window architraves have an ogee backband trim. The window openings have splayed, unpaneled jambs. A door to the right of the chimney has been cut in to allow access to the modern sun porch.

In the east room, the fireplace is centered on the east gable wall with an original door in the alcove to the left opening into the wing. There is evidence of a built-in cupboard in the alcove to the right that was presumably removed when the cellar entrance was altered. The mantel in this room is somewhat plainer, with tapered and molded pilasters supporting a simple molded shelf above a plain frieze and center block. The chairrail, baseboard, and window architraves match the west room. The door architraves on both the interior door and the door to the wing match the trim in the passage and the west room.

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.5 DESCRIPTION

The center passage plan is repeated on the second floor but the north end of the passage is partitioned to form a small unheated chamber. This room now serves as a modern bath. Although the trim in this room is not original, it appears to be an original partition. An enclosed stair leads from the second floor hall up to the unfinished third story. This stair is partitioned with beaded vertical boards and a later plain batten door. Several pieces of original baseboard and chairrail survive in the stair hall, and the original architrave trim survives on the window over the stair landing and on the door to the west chamber. This trim is different from the first floor, consisting of a bold ovolo molding that forms the edge of the opening with no fascia board employed.

A fireplace is centered on the west wall of the west room, flanked by modern closets. All of the original trim survives in this room. The baseboard and chairrail match the first floor trim; the architraves match the trim in the second floor stair hall. The window openings on the second story are also splayed but not paneled. The mantel in the west room is a relatively simple board surround with an ovolo backband framing the opening below a plain frieze and a very

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.6 DESCRIPTION

simple molded shelf. An original four-panel door opens from the west chamber into the stair hall.

The east chamber is virtually identical to the west chamber, with a fireplace centered on the east wall, splayed window trim, and identical trim including baseboard, chairrail, architraves, mantel and four-panel door. An original closet is built into the alcove to the right of the chimney. It has a single four-panel door and a simple ovolo backband framing the opening.

The third floor is unfinished with wide floorboards but no evidence of kneewalls, partitions or plastered ceiling and walls. The roof is constructed with pit sawn common rafters joined at the ridge with pegged mortise-and-tenon joints and reinforced with pit sawn collar beams that are half-lapped and nailed to each rafter pair. Double-struck, hand headed machine nails are predominant, although wrought nails are also evident. Diagonal windbraces remain in place at the west end of the roof. The wind brace on the south side was sawn from a relatively small piece of timber and the last 10-12 inches of the brace encompasses the full size of the original timber. Where the three dormers were added on the north facade, the shingle nailers remain in place, allowing examination of the exterior



## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.7 DESCRIPTION

face. They were nailed to the rafters with double struck nails. The dormers are framed with 20th century materials. Two holes in the attic flooring reveal that the ceiling joists in the west chamber at least were originally exposed and whitewashed.

The cellar is divided into two rooms by a single brick wall directly under the west wall of the first floor passage. The smaller cellar room to the west has an arched chimney base on the west gable wall and whitewashed brick walls. The ceiling joists and flooring above have all been replaced in the mid-20th century.

The chimney base on the east wall of the larger east room at one time had a fireplace, but this has been blocked up and adapted for the furnace flue. The original ceiling joists survive in this room but have been reinforced with modern joists under the east room. The flooring has been replaced in this section as well, while the original flooring survives in the first floor stair passage.

A small plumber's hole in the east gable wall of the cellar allows limited observation of the crawl space under the wing. This confirms that the wing is early if not original, but no other early fabric remains visible. The wing now serves as the kitchen on the first floor, with a single sleeping chamber above.

| PERIOD  | AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW |   |   |  |  |
|---|--|---|---|--|--|
| PREHISTORIC                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC  | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING     | <input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION            |  |
| 1400-1499                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC     | <input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION           | <input type="checkbox"/> LAW                    | <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE             |  |
| 1500-1599                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE             | <input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS              | <input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE             | <input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE           |  |
| 1600-1699                                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION              | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY               | <input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN |  |
| 1700-1799                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> ART                     | <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING            | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC                  | <input type="checkbox"/> THEATER             |  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE                | <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY             | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION      |  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-     | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS          | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY               | <input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT    | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)     |  |
|   |  | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION              |   |  |  |

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Reed Leaverton house is an excellent example of the two story, five bay brick farmhouse that is found throughout the Tidewater in the first half of the 19th century. The water table and belt course are not generally found later than circa 1810-1820 and the combination of wrought nails and double struck machine nails suggest a date of construction of circa 1800-1815. The interior woodwork is also consistent with this date range. Although porches have been added and the early frame wing veneered and renovated, the main house had few alterations other than the insertion of a modern bath. Virtually all of the original woodwork survives, including two handsome Federal mantels on the first floor and the open-string stair. Unusual details include the diagonal construction braces in the roof and evidence that at least one second floor chamber had an exposed, whitewashed joist ceiling.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Orlando Ridout V, Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Queen Anne's County Historical Society

DATE

10/2/81

STREET &amp; NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Centreville

STATE

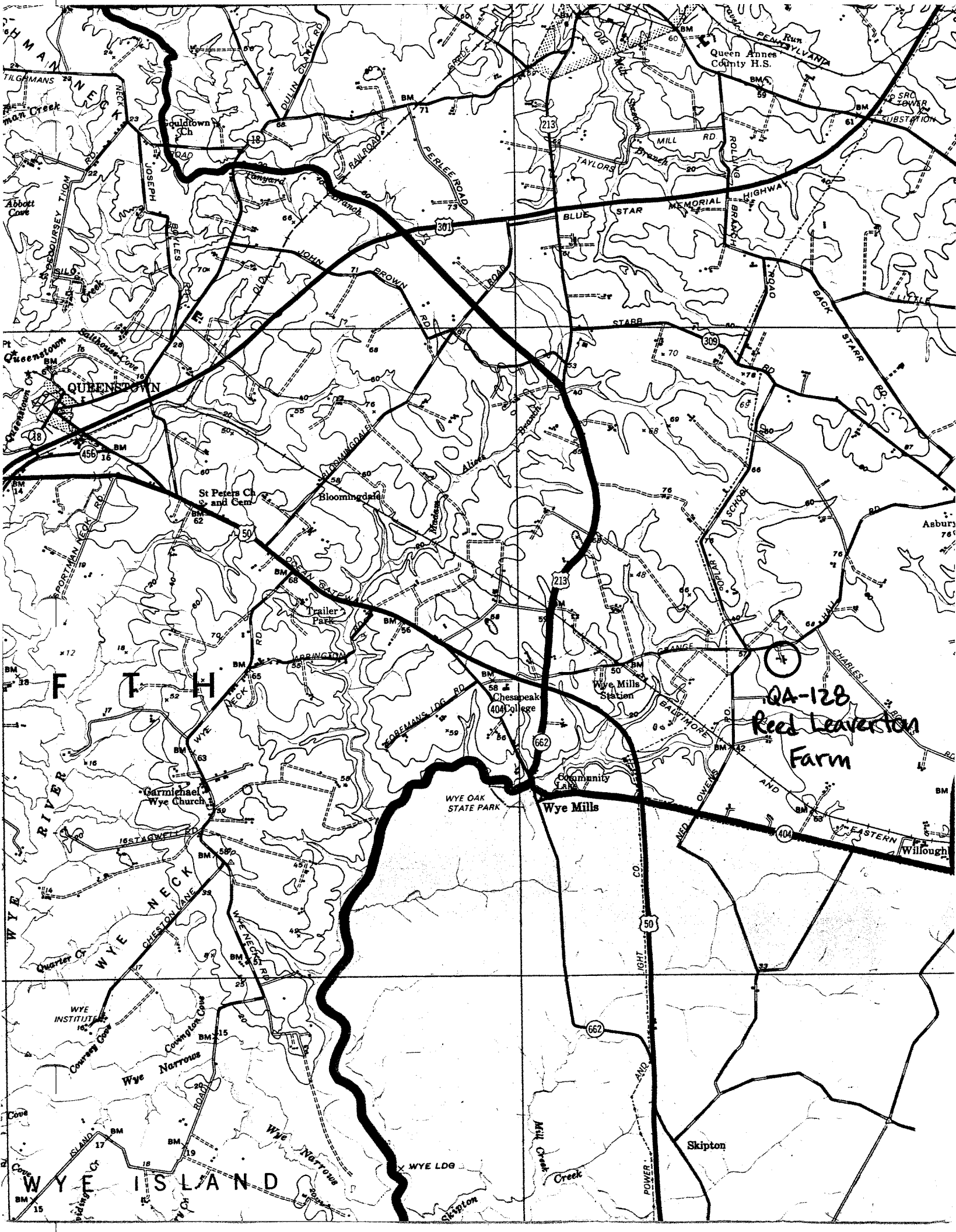
Maryland

Field Notebook QA-24; Recorded April 3, 1981.

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438





QA-128

Reed Leaverton Farm

Queen Anne vicinity

Orlando Ridout V 1981

Front facade from Northeast



QA-128

Reed Leaverton Farm

Queen Anne vicinity

Orlando Ridout V 1981

Rear facade from Southeast